

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A computer implemented method of processing documents received on
2 a server system comprising:

3 storing a plurality of first electronic documents on the server system, the
4 plurality of first electronic documents containing reference information to be disclosed to a
5 patent office;

6 receiving a second electronic document on the server system, the second
7 electronic document including citation information for one or more prior art reference
8 documents;

9 displaying the citation information in the second electronic document to a user
10 of a client system in a first display section; and

11 displaying a plurality of identifiers and one or more input select elements in a
12 second display section, each of the plurality identifiers corresponding to one of the plurality
13 of first electronic documents,

14 wherein the user enters information into the server system using the input
15 select elements, the information corresponding to the relation between the displayed citation
16 information and the displayed plurality of identifiers.

17 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the displayed citation information
18 includes one or more references submitted to a patent office and an indication of whether or
19 not each reference was considered by the patent office, and the information entered by the
20 user indicates whether or not each of the plurality of identifiers corresponding to the first
21 electronic documents were considered by the patent office.

22 3. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying the citation information
23 includes displaying an image file of a form received from a patent office.

24 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the form is a notice of references cited
25 by a patent applicant.

26 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the form is a notice of references cited
27 by a patent office.

28 6. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying a plurality of identifiers
29 comprises displaying a plurality of patent numbers associated with a case.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein identifiers are United States Patent
2 numbers.

1 8. The method of claim 6 wherein identifiers are foreign patent numbers.

1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein identifiers are serial numbers of patent
2 publications.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein displaying a plurality of identifiers
2 comprises displaying a plurality of publication titles.

1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifiers are links to the
2 electronic documents.

1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the input select elements include a yes
2 check box and a no check box pair for each of the plurality of identifiers, and wherein when
3 the yes check box is mouse clicked by the user, the information indicates that the identifier
4 corresponding to the yes check box has been considered by a patent office, and when the no
5 check box is mouse clicked by the user, the information indicates that the identifier
6 corresponding to the no check box has not been considered by the patent office.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein when neither the yes check box nor
2 the no check box have been mouse clicked by the user, the information indicates that the
3 identifier corresponding to the yes and no check boxes has not yet been considered by the
4 patent office.

1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the displayed citation information
2 includes one or more references discovered by a patent office, and the information entered by
3 the user includes additional electronic documents corresponding to the references discovered
4 by the patent office but not stored on the server system.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the input select element is an
2 electronic add button, and in accordance with mouse clicking the electronic add button, the
3 information is entered by loading an electronic document from an external source.

1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the second electronic document is
2 received by electronic mail.

1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of first
2 electronic documents on the server system is an electronic versions of a United States Patent.

1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of first
2 electronic documents on the server system is an electronic versions of a foreign patent
3 document.

1 19. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of first
2 electronic documents on the server system is an electronic versions of a publication.

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